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trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 16, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 11 totaled an estimated 15.9 billion ton-miles, 8.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The sharp decline was attributable to the impact of the United Mine Workers' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 15 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 267.6 billion ton-miles, 0.4 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 11 totaled 379,327 cars, 14.9 percent below 1980, and 4.3 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 29.1 percent in the East, 11.6 percent in the South and 6.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 12 of the 21 commodity groups were down. Coal loadings were off 50 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended April 4 totaled 33,752 cars, up 2.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 61,520 trailers and/or containers, up 3.9 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 14 weeks of the year was 446,795 cars, 5.2 percent lower than last year, and 809,558 trailers and/or containers, down 5.2 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/11/81:

	Loadings in Week ended April 11, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,399	D	3,958	14.0	I	11	0.0
Other farm products	3,720	I	291	8.5	I	706	23.4
Metallic ores	27,813	D	2,167	7.2	D	821	2.9
Coal	58,920	D	58,944	50.0	D	11,400	16.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,434	I	588	4.2	I	1,444	11.1
Nonmetallic minerals	13,870	D	1,019	6.8	I	74	0.5
Grain mill products	14,470	D	2,081	12.6	D	420	2.8
Food and kindred products	15,680	D	1,604	9.3	D	223	1.4
Primary forest products	19,407	I	1,047	5.7	I	850	4.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,040	I	1,215	15.5	D	325	3.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,650	D	767	3.8	D	1,213	5.8
Chemicals and allied products	27,768	D	659	2.3	D	2,052	6.9
Petroleum products	5,250	D	1,025	16.3	I	315	6.4
Stone, clay and glass products	15,117	D	487	3.1	I	239	1.6
Coke	6,308	D	663	9.5	D	109	1.7
Metals and products	17,244	D	804	4.5	D	1,509	8.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,872	I	2,604	16.0	D	306	1.6
Waste and scrap materials	13,959	I	730	5.5	I	716	5.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,879	I	257	2.4	D	599	5.2
All other carloads	42,294	I	1,159	2.8	D	2,468	5.5
LCL traffic	233	I	44	23.3	D	27	10.4
Total Cars Loaded	379,327	D	66,243	14.9	D	17,117	4.3
Corresponding week of 1980	445,570						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (15 weeks)	6,397,191	6,604,095	D	3.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
14 Weeks cumulative	251.7	249.3	I	1.0
Week ended April 11	15.9	17.4	D	8.2
15 Weeks cumulative	267.6	266.6	I	0.4

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